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# From "Occupational" to "Industrial": Issue 1 of the AMA Archives of Industrial Health, January 1955

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## **Historical Vignette**

## From "Occupational" to "Industrial": Issue 1 of the *AMA Archives of* Industrial Health, January 1955

Derek R. Smith, PhD, DrMedSc, MPH

he mid 20th Century in the United States (US) has been described as a period of mixed blessings for history, society and Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH). The early part of the 1950s, for example, were seen as a time of remarkable technological progress juxtaposed against a more menacing social backdrop. Optimism in science, society and the safety movement was countered by other, darker events, such as the Cold War (1947-1991) and the Korean War (1950-1953).<sup>2</sup> Even so, the mid 1950s still represented an era of interesting developments, both locally and abroad. In 1955, Ray Kroc opened his first McDonalds restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois; the Salk polio vaccine received full approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); while in the United Kingdom, Winston Churchill (1874–1965) had just resigned as Prime Minister.<sup>3</sup> Although, the field of EOH had already undergone significant evolution by this time,<sup>4</sup> it was in 1955 that perhaps the most important milestone of all occurred—when the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) was first authorised to examine and certify occupational medicine as a legitimate medical speciality.<sup>5</sup> In the same year changes were also occurring in academia, with the concept of a journal impact factor being first proposed, 6 coupled with the ongoing rise of scientific periodicals themselves - of which there were at least four major titles in existence by this time.<sup>7</sup>

At a conceptual level, the 1950s can be remembered as a time of changing nomenclature, a period when the word "occupational" began replacing the word "industrial" as the field sought to change its focus from employers and industry to the broader needs of workers. The discipline of occupational hygiene was also splitting off from occupational medicine to carve its own niche as an independent disci-

pline. Such influences were being keenly felt by the Editorial Board of the *American Medical Association* (AMA) *Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Medicine* (AMA-AIHOM),<sup>1</sup> which had been publishing a journal (albeit under a few different titles) for almost 40 years by this time.<sup>9</sup> In January 1955, the AMA-AIHOM journal was officially renamed and became the *AMA Archives of Industrial Health* (AMA-AIH), from Volume 11, Issue 1 onwards.<sup>10</sup> This change also featured a new journal cover and new format.<sup>11</sup> Its Editorial Board comprised of: Philip Drinker (Editor in Chief), Christopher Leggo, Robert O'Connor, Carl M. Peterson, Frank Princi, Oscar A. Sander, Helmuth H. Schrenk, Charles F. Shook and Herbert E. Stokinger; with Austin Smith as Editor (AMA Scientific Publications) and Gilbert S. Cooper as Managing Editor.

The careers of Philip Drinker (1894–1972), Frank Princi (1911-1963) Herbert E. Stokinger (1909-1998) have been described in detail elsewhere. 10 Christopher Leggo worked as Medical Director of the California and Hawaiian Sugar Refining Corporation in Crockett, California. 12 He was a founding member of the Western Association of Industrial Engineers and Surgeons in 1939-1940, which later became the Western Industrial Medical Association in 1953, and since 1974 has been known as the Western Occupational & Environmental Medical Association (WOEMA). Aside from a 1972 mention in the Journal of Occupational Medicine (JOM), 13 and his essay describing the early days of WOEMA, 14 no further historical record concerning Christopher Leggo could be found. Robert B. O'Connor (1914-1990) had begun his industrial medicine career during the Second World War and later worked at the Harvard School of Public Health. 15 In the early 1960s he became Editor-in-Chief of the JOM (official organ

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of the US Industrial Medical Association - later the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine [ACOEM]), and would remain in this role until 1967. 16 Carl Melancton Peterson (1899-1955), often referred to as industrial medicine's "quiet statesman," served as Secretary of the AMA's Council on Industrial Health since its foundation in 1937.<sup>17</sup> Peterson was also Secretary of the Interim American Board of Occupational Medicine, a group which had led to the inclusion of occupational medicine as a distinct specialty within in the ABPM. 18 Oscar A. Sander was a chest physician who specialised in pulmonary industrial diseases. In 1949 he presented a paper on pneumoconioses to the annual meeting of the American College of Chest Physicians, <sup>19</sup> and in 1958 presented a Ramazzini Oration titled: "Newer concepts of the pathogenesis of the pneumoconioses."20 Unfortunately, Sander disappeared from historical record sometime in the 1970s, when he was last listed as a consultant for the journal, Chest.21

Helmuth H. Schrenk (1902-1989) was a toxicologist with the Bureau of Mines and a noted industrial hygienist. He was elected on to the American Industrial Hygiene Association's (AIHA) Board of Directors in 1939, had served as chairman of its Editorial Board between 1940 and 1941, and was elected fifth President of the AIHA in 1943.<sup>22</sup> Apparently Schrenk was also a tennis player of some note, having advanced to the second round of the Pittsburgh Tennis Association's tennis tournament in 1945.23 In 1957 Schrenk wrote on the growth and progress of industrial hygiene as a discipline<sup>24</sup> and also received the AIHA's Donald E. Cummings Memorial Award.<sup>25</sup> Colonel Charles F. Shook served as a Surgeon during the Second World War,26 and later became Deputy Chief Surgeon of the European Theatre.<sup>27</sup> In 1957 he received the ACOEM Meritious Service Award, <sup>28</sup> but essentially disappeared from historical record following his Editorial work at the AMA-AIH during the 1950s. Austin E. Smith (1912–1993), Editor AMA Scientific Publications, had served as eighth Editor of the Journal of the American *Medical Association* (JAMA).<sup>29</sup> No further historical record regarding Gilbert S. Cooper (AMA-AIH Managing Editor) could be located during the preparation of this Vignette.

Issue 1 of the AMA-AIH contained a total of 9 articles, of which the majority (7 of 9) described original research, and the remainder comprising with one Literature Review and one Methodological Article / Clinical Guideline. Refer to Table 1. The first article, "Investigations on the metabolism of fluoride, Effect of acute renal tubular injury in urinary excretion of fluoride by the rabbit," was written by Frank A. Smith and colleagues from the University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry in New York.<sup>30</sup> Frank Ackroyd Smith (1919-1994) had been a member of the Fluoride Laboratory at the Manhattan Project since 1941, whose task it had been to determine the fluoride content of urine samples among workers involved in the project.<sup>31</sup> When the Manhattan Project closed Smith turned his attention to water fluoridation in the mid-1950s, and this is evidenced by his article in the AMA-AIH. A co-author on this paper and colleague of Smith's in fluoride research, Harold Carpenter Hodge (1904-1990), served as first President of the Society of Toxicology (SOT) in 1961.32 The second article was written by Herbert B. Wilson from the University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry; and colleagues from the Institute of Industrial Medicine in New York University, Jefferson Medical College, the University of Rochester Atomic Energy Project and the Occupational Health Program of the US Public Health Service. It was titled: "Relation of particle size of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> dust to toxicity following inhalation by animals,"33 and described work that had been performed under contract with the United States Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Most significantly, this article was one of a series which demonstrated how the particle size of Uranium oxide dust was crucial in determining its toxicity. His co authors included other notable researchers such as Sidney Laskin (1919-1976), a member of the Manhattan Project and later Chief of the Aerosol Unit at the AEC project;<sup>34</sup> as well as

Author	Title of Article	Category	Pages
Frank A. Smith, et al. <sup>30</sup>	Investigations on the metabolism of fluoride. III. Effect of acute renal tubular injury in urinary excretion of fluoride by the rabbit.	Original Research	2–10
Herbert B. Wilson, et al. <sup>33</sup>	Relation of particle size of $U_3O_8$ dust to toxicity following inhalation by animals.	Original Research	11–16
Charles M. Fletcher <sup>36</sup>	Classification of roentgenograms in pneumoconiosis.	Methodological Article	17-28
Charles M. Fletcher <sup>37</sup>	Epidemiological studies of coal miners' pneumoconiosis in Great Britain.	Original Research	29–41
William Daggett Norwood <sup>43</sup>	Personnel protection in atomic industry.	Literature Review	42-46
Arthur F.W. Peart, et al. 46	Pretest of forms and field techniques for use in the Detroit-Windsor air-pollution study.	Original Research	47–52
Kenneth P. DuBois and Gladys J. Cotter <sup>49</sup>	Studies on the toxicity and mechanism of action of Dipterex.	Original Research	53-60
J.P. Nielsen and A.D. Dangerfield <sup>53</sup>	Use of ion exchange resins for determination of atmospheric fluorides.	Original Research	61–65

Accident syndrome: A clinical approach.

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Original Research

Morris S. Schulzinger<sup>55</sup>

Herbert E. Stokinger (1909–1998), who was often later referred to as "Mr TLV." 35

Charles M. Fletcher from the Pneumoconiosis Research Unit of the Medical Research Council (MRC) in South Wales, Great Britain, contributed two articles: "Classification of roentgenograms in pneumoconiosis"36 and "Epidemiological studies of coal miners' pneumoconiosis in Great Britain."37 A leading epidemiologist, Charles Montague Fletcher (1911–1995) was the son of Sir Walter Morley Fletcher (1873–1933),<sup>38</sup> first secretary of the British MRC.<sup>39</sup> The MRC itself also had somewhat of an interesting history, especially prior to the Second World War when Great Britain was in urgent need for increased coal production. This situation, however, presented a clinical challenge when researchers such as Philip D'Arcy Hart (1900-2006) established that Coal mining caused a lung disease which could not be explained by Silicosis alone. Coal and coalminers were in demand (being essential to the war effort) and as a result, the MRC decided to investigate chronic pulmonary disease among coalminers, particularly in the South Wales coalfields. 40 They established a pneumoconiosis research unit at Llandough Hospital near Cardiff, and appointed Fletcher as its Director. 41 It was while working in this role that Fletcher submitted his two articles to the AMA-AIH. Fletcher was also a pioneer in many other fields, aside from his clear interest in EOH. From 1958 he presented the BBC television series Your Life in Their Hands, which pioneered the use of television to help inform the public about medical procedures.<sup>42</sup> Fletcher was also a leader in smoking research, having persuaded the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) to form a working party in 1959 with himself as secretary, 41 and essentially authored the RCP's groundbreaking 1962 report on the hazards of smoking.<sup>38</sup>

The next article in the AMA-AIH, "Personnel protection in atomic industry",43 was written by William Daggett Norwood, Manager of the Health and Safety Section at the Hanford Atomic Products Operation of the General Electric Company in Washington. His paper had been previously read at the 7th Annual Industrial Health Conference, held in Houston, Texas during September 1954. Interestingly, Norwood would go on to win various awards from ACOEM, including the Meritorious Service Award in 1960, the William S. Knudsen Award in 1963 and the Robert A. Kehoe Award of Merit in 1970.<sup>28</sup> Twenty years after publishing his article in the AMA-AIH, Norwood published a book on a similar topic. 44 It is also worth noting that Norwood and some of his colleagues were ahead of their time with regard to upcoming public health issues, commenting as early as 1966 that obesity was "one of the most important public health problems in this country today."45

Arthur F.W. Peart and colleagues in Canada wrote the next article in the AMA-AIH which was titled: "Pretest of forms and field techniques for use in the Detroit-Windsor air-pollution study."<sup>46</sup> At the time, Peart was Assistant Secretary of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and had formerly been Chief of the Epidemiology Division at the

Department of National Health and Welfare. He later became General Secretary of the CMA in 1966<sup>47</sup> and President of the World Medical Association in 1970. Peart died in 2010, aged 96.<sup>48</sup> The next article, "Studies on the toxicity and mechanism of action of Dipterex,"<sup>49</sup> was written by Kenneth Patrick DuBois and Gladys J. Cotter from the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Chicago. Kenneth P. DuBois (1917–1973) was a renowned toxicologist whose major research interests focussed on the mechanism of action of organophosphate insecticides (of which Dipterex is one). He was a founding member of the SOT, serving as its Vice President in 1961–62,<sup>50</sup> and Councillor 1970–72.<sup>51</sup> DuBois was also the first Managing Editor of Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology, official organ of the SOT, since 1963.<sup>52</sup>

The second last article of Issue 1 was titled: "Use of ion exchange resins for determination of atmospheric fluorides", 53 and was written by J.P. Nielsen from the Stanford Research Institute in California and A.D. Dangerfield from the Columbia-Geneva Steel Division of the United States Steel Corporation in Utah. Unfortunately, no historical record of the authors' full names or biographies could be located during the preparation of this Historical Vignette. The final article of the inaugural AMA-AIH issue was written by Morris S. Schulzinger (d. 1995), a Cincinnati-based physician who specialised in industrial and emergency medicine.<sup>54</sup> This particular article "Accident syndrome: A clinical approach,"55 similar his well-known book published one year later entitled *The Accident Syndrome*, <sup>56</sup> was based on the observation and treatment of cases within Schulzinger's own medical clinic. He believed that most accidents followed an identifiable pattern which enabled prediction of future accidents regarding who, how and under what conditions, they might occur. Schulzinger had also published other articles on similar topics in the journal Industrial Medicine and Surgery in 1954<sup>57</sup> and 1956.<sup>58</sup> Although having been around since the 1920s, the concept of "accident proneness" was enjoying renewed popularity by the 1950s, and this may have been the motivation for publishing such an article in the AMA-AIH. Either way, Schulzinger's work took the concept one step further by proposing that the "accident prone" were actually a shifting group, and that all human beings are at some stage, at least temporarily "accident prone." Although Schulzinger would eventually live until age 94, having been a physician for 61 years of those years,<sup>54</sup> the concept of "accident proneness" did not last.

On the other hand, the concept of a journal impact factor (which incidentally, began in the same year as the AMA-AIH) did stand the test of time. Indeed, the entire issue of article citations, journal impact factors and who is reading what, would eventually go on to become one of the most hotly debated academic topics 50 years later. <sup>59</sup> Much of the contemporary debate on this matter relates to publication utility. Or, put more succinctly, which articles continue to appear in the literature following publication, and which do not. A brief search of the *Web of Science*<sup>®</sup> (WoS) database in 2010 clearly demonstrates that not all scientific articles

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from the AMA-AIH were cited equally in the literature. The paper by DuBois and Cotter<sup>49</sup> (describing the toxicity and mechanism of action of Dipterex) for example, eventually became the most highly-cited article of all; followed by Fletcher's article on the classification of roentgenograms<sup>36</sup> and Smith's investigation on the metabolism of fluoride.<sup>30</sup> According to the WoS, all other articles from the inaugural issue of the AMA-AIH attracted less than 10 citations each, in the 55 years following their initial publication. Regardless of who cited what, it must be remembered that the articles in this issue of the journal, and indeed the AMA-AIH itself, represent just one part of a longer story in the evolution of a scientific periodical and the discipline within which it exists.

Originally founded in 1919 as the Journal of Industrial Hygiene,<sup>9</sup> the journal prospered as its Editorial Board saw it through a name change in the mid 1930s<sup>60</sup> followed by a World War, and another name change 20 years later - when it first became known as an "Archive." The Archive component of the title would continue into the 1960s when it became the Archives of Environmental Health, and again into new millennium as the Archives of Environmental & Occupational Health (AEOH). 61 Interestingly, these ongoing name changes reflect a wider social awakening in the early 20th Century as it became increasingly clear that EOH, as a discipline, should be viewed more from the workers' position, rather than as a servant of industry, employers or corporations. The fact that the transition was not straightforward however, is reflected in the journal's title which contained the term "Industrial Hygiene" from foundation until the late 1940s, followed by the term "Occupational Medicine" until the 1950s, before changing back to the term 'Industrial Health' in the mid 1950s, as described in the current Vignette. The decision to use the term Archive rather than Journal (a practice which began in 1950) represents another interesting development in its evolution, and was most likely undertaken to help engender a feeling of historical significance to material contained within - this becoming an increasingly important consideration as the field matured.

For these reasons, the current series of Historical Vignettes traces the long and rich history of our "Archive" from pioneering times in the early 20th century, until the modern day. The later addition of the term "Environmental" to the journal's title will be described and discussed in a forthcoming article.

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